

# Annals of the Missouri Botanical Garden

---

Vol. 15

NOVEMBER, 1928

No. 4

---

## A NEW VARIETY OF *VERNONIA* LINDHEIMERI<sup>1</sup>

ESTHER L. LARSEN

*Instructor in Botany in the University of Montana*  
*Formerly Jessie R. Barr Fellow in Botany, Washington University*

A very interesting *Vernonia* was collected by Roxana S. Ferris and Carl D. Duncan along the Sanderson-Sheffield Road, twelve miles from Sanderson, Terrell County, Texas, July 19, 1921. The plant was distributed as *Vernonia Lindheimeri* Gray & Engelman; but upon critical study and comparison with a relatively large suite of specimens representing this species in the Missouri Botanical Garden Herbarium, the Ferris and Duncan plant shows such marked variation from the type of the species that it seems worthy of recognition as an outstanding variety. A description is recorded as follows:

*Vernonia Lindheimeri* Gray & Engelman var. *leucophylla*  
Larsen, n. var. Pl. 45.

Formae typicae habitu simili; foliis utrinque dense albido-tomentosis; involucri squamis linearilanceolatis, acutis, dense tomentosis, marginibus purpurascens; achaeniis circiter 4 mm. longis, glabris.

Suffruticose, stem densely tomentose; leaves linear to linear-lanceolate, 4-16 cm. long, 3-8 mm. broad, entire, densely tomentose on both surfaces, margins of the younger leaves occasionally revolute; inflorescence terminal, branching, spreading, leafy; heads 12-17 mm. high; involucre broadly campanulate, 4-5-seriate, 8-9 mm. high and 8-10 mm. in diameter; bracts linear-lanceolate, acute, purple-margined and densely tomentose; heads 50-60-flowered; flowers purple; pappus white; achenes

<sup>1</sup> Issued December 22, 1928.



about 4 mm. long, glabrous and glandless or rarely bearing a few glands in the furrows.—TEXAS: collected along the Sanderson-Sheffield Road, twelve miles from Sanderson, Terrell County, July 19, 1921, *Roxana S. Ferris & Carl D. Duncan 2826* (Mo. Bot. Gard. Herb. No. 902145 TYPE).

*Vernonia Lindheimeri* Gray & Engelm. has been recorded heretofore only from Texas. It is noteworthy, however, that specimens of this species were collected in pine woods about Texarkana, Arkansas, August, 1881, by the late Mr. George W. Letterman. This collection extends considerably the geographical range of the species, which, from material in the Missouri Botanical Garden Herbarium, may now be given as from southern Arkansas in the region of Texarkana southwestward to Sweetwater and San Antonio, Texas.

The variety *leucophylla* at the present time is known only from Terrell County, Texas, which is about 200 miles west of the westernmost station recorded for the species. The distribution areas of *Vernonia Lindheimeri* and its variety *leucophylla* in all probability on further exploration will be found to overlap.

#### EXPLANATION OF PLATE

##### PLATE 45

*Vernonia Lindheimeri* Gray & Engelm. var. *leucophylla* Larsen  
Texas

From the type specimen, *Ferris & Duncan No. 2826*, in the Missouri Botanical Garden Herbarium.